



First Christian Church (DOC)

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Return Service Requested

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

God has called us to be a
Congregation TO and FOR adults 50+,
Even as we joyfully welcome
ALL into our church family.



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



Services each Sunday...

Praising God, Changing Lives for 127 Years!

Contemporary Worship

9:00 AM

Sunday School

9:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Traditional Worship

10:50 AM

Coffee Mingle

12:15 PM

Our Ministry Statement

First Christian Church

exists to:

Reach Up to worship God,

Reach In to grow in Christ-like maturity,

Reach Out to serve others in Christ's name, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others and to invite them to become members of His family.

The Staff

Welcomes You...

Rev. Brad Barton

Sr. Minister
970-314-5540

revbradbarton@gmail.com

Rev. Melanie Ferron

Associate Minister

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Norma Matteson, Pianist

Katie Wendland, Secretary

John Moore, Custodian

A New Worship Service at FCCGJ Coming Sometime in January 2016

Maybe you've heard rumors from members of the congregation's Cabinet or Board about a new worship service coming in 2016. Maybe not. Either way, I'd like to share with you the facts about the new worship service we'll begin offering in 2016.

What it IS

- A Sunday evening worship service called "Sundays at Seven"; it will be held in the sanctuary on Sundays at 7:00 p.m.
- A worship service led by me, Pastor Brad, with help from my wife, Susan, who is a chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital and an ordained pastor in our denomination.
- The worship service will include:
 - Singing
 - Prayers
 - Sacred Rituals (like candlelighting)
 - Scripture Reading
 - Sermon (a more interactive kind of sermon)
 - Communion
 - Offering
- Worship that will intentionally seek to meet the worship needs of currently un-churched people.
- Worship that is focused on worship (and no extras).
- Something new.

What it is NOT

- Traditional
- Contemporary
- The Same (as what we currently offer or necessarily from week to week)
- Inclusive of extra, non-worship stuff (like announcements and meetings)

If you know any people who want to worship but...

- can't come on Sunday mornings;
 - also want to get in on something new;
 - would rather do so with people who haven't been a part of the church all their lives;
 - don't want to get involved in "church" just yet;
 - want a more interactive worship experience;
- ...please direct them to Sundays at Seven.

~Pastor Brad



Sunday School & Thank You's

10:00 AM Sunday School Class: Fearless Conversation discussions with coffee and donuts.

Our **Fearless Conversation** group has been digging into some really interesting stuff...so interesting that our Senior Pastor stops by to get in on the discussion!

Starting November 29th the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a study called

SENT...DELIVERING THE GIFT OF HOPE AT CHRISTMAS.

This is a video/book study on Jesus Reconciling, Setting Us Free, Bringing New Life and Changing Everything!

We hope you will take this Christmas Advent Season to prepare for the Coming of our Lord! Join us on Sunday in the library after first service (around 10:05)...note: we adjust part of our discussion to accommodate those that would like to join us but go to second service, so that is not a problem to attend. All are welcome!

Lily Fitch – Teacher of Christian Education

Thanks!!

Many Many thanks and “Congratulations” to our Youth Leaders and youth for their wonderful rendition of “Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Is Here”. The music, the narrators and youth were great. “Bring A Torch, Jeannette Isabella” was a song I had not heard of before, but I discovered it on a CD I purchased at Grandma’s Attic this fall....Another opportunity of “Rediscovering Christmas--Everywhere”.

~Joyce Wittwer - Membership

Special Gift!

What a special gift my father, Leo, and others at Eagle Ridge received on Sunday the 6th when twelve members of our choir and congregation gathered to sing Christmas carols for them. My dad, who sang in a high school quartet, Barbershop Quartets and our church choir, thoroughly enjoyed the music and the sight of so many people he knew. It was a blessing, and I thank each and every one of you for taking the time to provide this wonderful gift.

~Joyce Wittwer

The church received a wonderful Thank You letter from the Tennyson Center for Children. Because the letter is so detailed, it will be posted on the bulletin board for everyone to read!



From the Stewardship Committee:

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the 2016 budget. It was a little tough this year, but everyone pitched in and we were able to complete the budget on time. Making cuts is never easy, especially when there are new plans afoot for the new year, but with everyone pulling together we got it done. We look forward to a great 2016!

Congregational Meeting Results

Both the list of nominations, and the 2016 Budget, were approved at the congregational meeting on December 13, 2015. Thank you for your participation!

Anniversaries, Birthdays, and Announcements



FCC December Birthdays

December 1	Greg Sherry
December 4	Janet Biederman
December 4	Helen Wade
December 4	Emily (Farrell) McHugh
December 7	Donna Ham
December 9	Helen Dillard
December 9	Verda
December 10	Al Ladage
December 11	Carol Johnson
December 12	Phyllis Godfrey
December 21	Gaylene Grimsley
December 21	Ed Jones
December 22	Carol Steed
December 23	Marian Velarde
December 23	Kermit Schade
December 24	Rebecca Farrell
December 26	Tammy Rosencrans
December 31	JoAnne Eggers

FCC December Anniversaries

December 27	Leonard & Kathy Gardner
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CHRISTMAS EVE COOKIE MINGLE

6:00 P.M. TO 6:45 P.M.

Start your evening off with cookies and hot cider in the Fellowship Hall. If you can bring cookies to share, please contact Martha's Ministry (Jeanne Klitzke, Jeanice Swank or Joyce Wittwer)



The Giving Tree



Christmas is almost upon us and there are people within our congregation and our church-sponsored friends at Grand View apartments who are in need of a little help to make this Christmas brighter. Please take an ornament (or even two or more) off the Giving Trees in the Narthex. The items (gifts, food, gift certificates) need to be at the church no later than Sunday December 20. Please leave price tags and value of cards attached. The items will be wrapped and delivered by Christmas Eve. If you would be interested in helping with any part of this important project, please let Lois Dunning or Joyce Wittwer know you can help.

REMEMBER! It is more blessed to give than to receive.

THANK YOU ALL!!

Membership and Outreach Ministries

Advent Windows!

Each day until the end of Advent, there will be a new window display, created by different people/groups! Please take a moment to go around and see the wonderful art our members have produced!

It's That Time Again!

The beginning of the new year is right around the corner! Please submit your 2016 calendar request forms as soon as possible! Even if you filled one out in 2016, please fill out a new form! You can pick up a calendar request form in the church office, email your information, or call the church office! Thank you!!



Announcements

Dear Friends,

The passing of time is bringing a big change to my life. I have been blessed to live in my own home and have someone live with me for the last few years, but I have surprised my children by deciding to try something new. As of December 1st, I am moving to Mesa View Senior Living.

I have lived in this house for 58 years and it is amazing how much stuff I have accumulated! Sandra and Mac are here for Thanksgiving and we will have dinner at my granddaughter Monica and Tony's home. Then we are sorting through 58 years of assorted "treasures"!

I will have a lovely two-bedroom apartment. I look forwards to having you all visit me there. My new address is

**Mesa View
Room 239
601 Horizon Place
Grand Junction, CO 81506**



I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a year filled with many blessings,
Elsie Granere

Transitions Group

The Transitions FOG (fellowship of the grape) group will be having its next get together at the home of Wayne and Tammy Ostermiller on December 19th @6:30pm. Bring wine (or the beverage of your choice) and a finger food to share. Enjoy the lights on your drive out and enjoy visiting with each other in the season we celebrate Christ's birth.

The Ostermillers
541 Lopez Ct.
Clifton, Co 81520
970-462-6120

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, December 31

Please submit to the church office or email them to:

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

Articles arriving later than the deadline will not be included until the next published Crosswords.

Shop With Scrip

Why buy your gift cards (**scrip**) at stores when you have to get in your car, go to the stores and pick them up when you can buy them at our church and give our church a rebate on the cards? The gift cards (scrip) are the same price you'd pay in the stores. The difference is that when you buy scrip through this company, our church gets a "rebate" that stores don't give. This is one way to support our church.

"Scrip" is gift **cards you can buy at stores** such as clothing stores (Herberger's, Kohl's, Macy's), restaurants, (Chili's, Applebee's) grocery stores, home improvement stores, just to mention a few.

We need people to participate in this committee and also in purchasing scrip. If we don't have enough interest, we will be unable to offer this! Please sign-up!!

*****Don't forget, the holidays are coming!! Shopping with Scrip can help with your holiday list AND help out our congregation!*****

Please contact Carol Matthews if interested! 970-773-4797



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen

Nancy Armbruster

Brenda Armstrong

David Barnes' Family

Anna Bilyeu

Jessie Bowen

Lois Braun

Tim Burke

Marianne Chapman

Charlie & Carol

Marlis Clark

Marlene Cowan

Chuck Cummings

Arinda Davis' Family

Melissa Frankland's Family

Helen Dillard

John Drury

JoAnne Eggers

Larry Eggers

Melanie Ferron & Family

Leon Gardner

Dorothy Griffin

Daneial & Vickie Hagan

Emily Hauquitz

Jason Hawley

David Herrera

Doris Hicks' Family

Bruce Hines

Kim Hopkins

Robin Jakino

Carol Johnson

Ed Jones

Jordan Jones

Pat Jones

Nora Juette

Harriette & Andy Krall

Gloria Ladehoff

Bette Learned

Anna Lopez

Joyce Lucore

Wilbur Lucore

Carla Martin

Jennifer McDaniel

Clare & Ally Morris

Ginger Morris

Larry Petrini

Jeff Rood

Jean Silkey

Greg Stouffer

Lois Stouffer

Jiemon & Tayo Takahashi

Helen Wade

Tammy Wenzinger

D.J. Wilhorn



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

December 20, 2015

No First Service

December 20, 2015	3rd Sunday	
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<u>Worship Leader</u> N/A <u>Children's Moment</u> N/A <u>Offering Elder</u> Al Baumgartle <u>Communion Elder</u> Gene Matteson	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Larry Eggers JoAnne Eggers Jeanne Klitzke David Morgan <u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Riecke Claussen Nancy Claussen	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Melanie Ferron <u>Greeters</u> Terry Laughlin Jo Laughlin <u>Van Driver</u> Leonard & Kathy Gardner
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December 24, 2015

December 24, 2015

<u>Worship Leader</u> N/A <u>Children's Moment</u> N/A <u>Offering Elder</u> Al Baumgartle <u>Communion Elder</u> Gene Matteson	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> N/A <u>Preparing Diaconate</u> TBD	<u>Cookie Mingle</u> Joyce Wittwer <u>Greeters</u> TBD <u>Van Driver</u> N/A
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December 27, 2015

No First Service

December 27, 2015	4th Sunday	
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<u>Worship Leader</u> N/A <u>Children's Moment</u> N/A <u>Offering Elder</u> Leonard Gardner <u>Communion Elder</u> Kathy Gardner	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Beth Sherry JoAnne Eggers Doug Bryant Carolyn Bryant <u>Preparing Diaconate</u> George Decker Barbara Decker	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Lamar Edwards Joyce Wittwer <u>Greeters</u> Wes Wade Helen Wade <u>Van Driver</u> George Decker
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January 3, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBD

Elder

TBD

January 3, 2015	1st Sunday	
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<u>Worship Leader</u> TBD <u>Children's Moment</u> N/A <u>Offering Elder</u> Ray Farrell <u>Communion Elder</u> Grace Farrell	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Alice Wieseler Nancy Armbruster Wes Wade Helen Wade <u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Alice Wieseler	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Ruth Acord Jeanice Swank <u>Greeters</u> Donna Ham Lois Braun <u>Van Driver</u> Terry Laughlin Jo Laughlin
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Church Calendar of Events - December 17, 2015— January 12, 2016

Thursday December 17, 2015

7:00am School Dist. 51 Meeting

6:00pm Praise Team

Saturday December 19, 2015

8:00am Men's Breakfast

6:30pm Transitions FOG Group

Sunday December 20, 2015

4th Sunday of Advent

NO First Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:50am Re-discovering Christmas Through Traditions Worship Service

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

1:30pm Caroling @ Larchwood

No Cabinet Meeting

Monday December 21, 2015

Brad Out of Office

9:30am Church Women United

10:30am Staff Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday December 22, 2015

Brad Out of Office

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

4:00pm Disciples Singers

Wednesday December 23, 2015

NO Bible Study

NO KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Advent Soup and Carols

6:30pm Advent Bible Study

NO Middle/High School Youth Group

Thursday December 24, 2015

Office Closed for Christmas Eve

6:00pm Christmas Eve Cookie Mingle

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday December 25, 2015

Merry Christmas!



Sunday December 27, 2015

NO First Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:50am Christmas Carol Sing Worship Service

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

Monday December 28, 2015

Brad Out of Office

1:30pm FCC Bookworms

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday December 29, 2015

Brad Out of Office

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00am A New Door Opens @ Spoons

4:00pm Disciples Singers

Wednesday December 30, 2015

NO Bible Study

NO KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

NO Fellowship Meal

NO Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Grp

Thursday December 31, 2015

Office Closed for New Year's Eve

Friday January 1, 2016

Happy New Year!

Sunday January 3, 2016

9:00am Contemporary Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:50am Traditional Worship

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

Monday January 4, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting

5:30pm Norwex Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday January 5, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

4:00pm Disciples Singers

4:00pm Grandview Worship

5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday January 6, 2016

Epiphany

10:00am Bible Study

3:30pm Parkinson's Support group

4:00pm (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship Meal (Barton's)

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group

Thursday January 7, 2016

9:30am Ruth Group

1:30pm Agape Group

1:30 Esther Group

6:00pm Praise Team

Sunday January 10, 2016

9:00am Contemporary Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:50am Traditional Worship

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

12:30pm Elder's Meeting

Monday January 11, 2016

9:30am Church Women United

10:30am Staff Meeting

1:30pm FCC Bookworms

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday January 12, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00am A New Door Opens @ Spoons

4:00pm Disciples Singers

